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ECO Questions and Answers

1) What dates should be entered as the entry or exit dates?

Answer: The entry date should be the date of the initial IFSP or IEP meeting. The exit date should be the date the child actually leaves the program (i.e. third birthday or date of switch to ECSE services, end of school year prior to kindergarten).

2) How do we report exit/entry on Summer IFSPs or compensatory IFSPs for First Steps, and Extended School Year for ECSE?

Answer: For First Steps children who turn three during the summer and continue to receive FS services through the summer, the exit date from First Steps would be when the children move to ECSE in the fall. ECSE eligibility for the summer birthday children needs to be determined prior to the child receiving FS services through the summer, but it is acceptable to wait to do the ECSE entry rating for the child and use the FS exit rating rather than information determined during ECSE eligibility determination.

For children receiving compensatory IFSP services past the third birthday or ECSE ESY services, the exit date would be the usual end date for the program, rather than the extended end date.

3) Is “within 30 days of eligibility and 30 days prior to exit” a hard and fast rule?

Answer: No. The 30 day window may need to be stretched to accommodate unique situations, but should not be stretched to the point that the rating at actual entry or exit from the program would be different than the rating determined within the window.

4) How do we get the MOSIS number for ECSE children?

Answer: Every district should apply for a MOSIS ID for all children receiving services through the district, which includes children receiving ECSE services. The submission process is the same as for students in grades K-12. District ECSE personnel should contact the district's central office to determine who is responsible for the MOSIS application.

5) What data will I submit to DESE on the form in July 2007?

Answer: For 2006-07, districts/SPOEs will report all entry data on children coming into the programs beginning October 2006. They may also have some exit data for children who entered and exited during 2006-07 and were in the program at least 6 months. In 2007-08, districts will report all entry data for that year as well as exit data for any children who exit during 2007-08, regardless of when they entered the program.

6) Can I enter both exit and entry data for one child on the same line on the collection sheet?

Answer: No, each line on the data collection sheet will list ONE set of ratings, either entry or exit for ONE child.

7) Where do I keep the ECO information in the child's file: Permanent record or Special Education file?

Answer: The information should be maintained in the child's special education file. If a child transfers and special education information is sent, the completed MOSS may be sent to the new

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district/SPOE as part of the child's record; however, it is not mandatory that the completed form be sent. For more information regarding transfers see question 8 below.

8) What do I do when a child transfers?

Answer:

Transfers within the state: It is expected that children will only have one entry and one exit rating for FS or ECSE statewide. This would mean that District/SPOE A will provide the entry data to DESE and District/SPOE B will provide the exit data to DESE. DESE will match the child's entry information with the exit information using the individual identifier number (MOSIS ID) for each child.

Transfers out of the state of Missouri: If the child is in Missouri's ECSE/FS program for more than 6 months, the teacher/SC must complete an exit rating and submit that to DESE when the child transfers out of the program. If you do not have sufficient notification and/or information to complete an exit rating on an out-of-state transfer, indicate in the child's file that an exit rating was not completed.

Transfers into the state of Missouri: ECSE/FS must conduct an entry rating as when they first enroll the child.

9) What if the district/SPOE cannot locate the entry rating for transfer children?

Answer: District/ SPOE will not need to locate the entry rating as long as they know that one was completed. If you aren't sure whether or not an entry rating was completed, complete the rating scale and provide the information to DESE. DESE will watch for multiple entry ratings for the same child and adjust accordingly.

10) What is the purpose of the optional column on the data collection form that says, "If exiting, in program < 6 months"?

Answer: This is for internal tracking purposes and could be marked if the child exits ECSE or FS within 6 months from entry.

11) In what ways is DESE planning to disaggregate the data? Will districts receive specific information for their district?

Answer: DESE is required to publicly report these data for each district/SPOE. ECSE data will be included in the Special Education District Profile, while FS data will be included in the SPOE Data report. The public report will include the number and percent of children for each of the five outcome reporting categories.

12) Who will complete the entry/exit data and who is responsible for reporting the data?

Answer: The rating scales will be completed by the service coordinator or ECSE teacher. In cases where ECSE services are not provided directly by the district (i.e. an ECSE co-op or private agency), the district of residence for the child must ensure that their eligible children are evaluated and the resident district must report the data to DESE for those children.

Additional information is located at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/ECOtraining.html>